Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) A peptide separated from tunicate and comprising amino acid sequence represented by chemical formula I:

$W_1X_2B'_3U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18}$ (SEQ ID NO: 11) (I)

wherein,

W represents tryptophan;

X, each variable of which X_2, X_5, X_6, X_{10}, X_{16} and X_{17} is individually selected from an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, valine, isoleucine, leucine, methionine, phenylalanine and tryptophan;

B represents an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine and histidine;

B' represents an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine and histidine or from a group consisting of asparagine and glutamine;

C is Cysteine;

U represents an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of glycine, serine, alanine and threonine.

2. (previously presented) The peptide as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tunicate is *Halocynthia aurantium*.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The peptide as set forth in claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises amino acid sequence SEQ. ID No: 1.

5. (previously presented) A peptide comprising an amino acid sequence represented by chemical formula II:

$U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18}$ (SEQ ID NO: 13) (II)

wherein,

U represents an amino acid residue selected from a group consisting of glycine, serine, alanine and threonine;

X, each variable of which X_5, X_6, X_{10}, X_{16} and X_{17} is individually selected from an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, valine, isoleucine, leucine, methionine, phenylalanine and tryptophan;

B represents an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine and histidine; and

B' represents an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine and histidine or from a group consisting of asparagine and glutamine.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The peptide as set forth in claim 5, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 15 in which U_4

is alanine, X_5 is leucine, X_6 is leucine, B_7 is histidine, B_8 is histidine, U_9 is glycine, X_{10} is leucine, B'_{11} is ~~asparagines~~ asparagine, C_{12} is cysteine, U_{13} is alanine, B_{14} is lysine, U_{15} is glycine, X_{16} is valine, X_{17} is leucine and U_{18} is alanine.

8. (previously presented) A peptide dimer comprising an amino acid sequence represented by chemical formula III: wherein each peptide of the dimer is represented by chemical formula I (SEQ ID NO: 11) and the peptides are joined at the cysteine site by disulfide bond;

$$\begin{array}{c} W_1X_2B'_3U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18} \\ | \\ W_1X_2B'_3U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18}. \end{array} \qquad \text{(III)}$$

9. (previously presented) A peptide dimer comprising an amino acid sequence represented by formula IV: wherein each peptide of the dimer is represented by chemical formula II (SEQ ID NO: 13), and the peptides are joined at the cysteine site by disulfide bond;

$$\begin{array}{c} U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18} \\ | \\ U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18}. \end{array} \qquad \text{(IV)}$$

10. (previously presented) A peptide dimer comprising an amino acid sequence represented by formula V: wherein one peptide of the dimer is represented by chemical formula I (SEQ ID NO: 11) and another peptide of the dimer is represented

by chemical formula II (SEQ ID NO: 13), and the peptides are joined at the cysteine site by disulfide bond;

(V)

$$\begin{array}{l} W_1X_2B'_3U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18} \\ \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad | \\ \qquad\quad U_4X_5X_6B_7B_8U_9X_{10}B'_{11}C_{12}U_{13}B_{14}U_{15}X_{16}X_{17}U_{18}. \end{array}$$

11. (previously presented) An antimicrobial agent comprising a peptide comprising the chemical formula I of claim 1 as an active ingredient.

12. (previously presented) An antimicrobial agent comprising a peptide comprising the chemical formula II of claim 5 as an active ingredient.

13. (previously presented) An antimicrobial agent comprising a peptide dimer comprising the chemical formula III of claim 8 as an active ingredient.

14. (previously presented) An antimicrobial agent comprising a peptide dimer comprising the chemical formula IV of claim 9 as an active ingredient.

15. (previously presented) An antimicrobial agent comprising a peptide dimer comprising the chemical formula V of claim 10 as an active ingredient.